

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20579

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

GEORGE R. SMITH  
HAROLD S. SMITH

Under the International Claims Settlement  
Act of 1949, as amended

Counsel for claimants

Claim No. CU - 0506

Decision No. CU  
1900

Harold S. Smith, Esq.

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, was presented by GEORGE R. SMITH AND HAROLD S. SMITH based upon the asserted ownership and loss of interests in land. Claimants have both been nationals of the United States since birth.

Under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 [78 Stat. 1110 (1964), 22 U.S.C. §§1643-1643k (1964), as amended, 79 Stat. 988 (1965)], the Commission is given jurisdiction over claims of nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba. Section 503(a) of the Act provides that the Commission shall receive and determine in accordance with applicable substantive law, including international law, the amount and validity of claims by nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba arising since January 1, 1959 for

losses resulting from the nationalization, expropriation, intervention or other taking of, or special measures directed against, property including any rights or interests therein owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly at the time by nationals of the United States.

Section 504 of the Act provides, as to ownership of claims, that

(a) A claim shall not be considered under section 503(a) of this title unless the property on which the claim was based was owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly

by a national of the United States on the date of the loss and if considered shall be considered only to the extent the claim has been held by one or more nationals of the United States continuously thereafter until the date of filing with the Commission.

Section 502(3) of the Act provides:

The term 'property' means any property, right, or interest including any leasehold interest, and debts owed by the Government of Cuba or by enterprises which have been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba and debts which are a charge on property which has been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba.

Claimants contend they have lost investments in real property in Cuba valued at \$1,000.00. They have submitted a copy of a deed, dated June 1, 1957, which reflects purchase of lot #8 of Block 10 in Parcelation Americana, Sierra de Caballos on the Isle of Pines, valued at \$500.00. Claimants assert that the full value of the property is not reflected in the deed, as additional consideration in the form of professional and legal services performed by them, plus subsequent "natural appreciation," is not recited therein. Other than their own statements, claimants have submitted no evidence in support of their assertions. On the basis of the evidence of record, the Commission finds that claimants each owned a one-half interest in the property above described.

On December 6, 1961 the Cuban Government published its Law 989 (Official Gazette, XXIII, No. 237, p. 23705) which confiscated all assets, personal property and real estate, rights, shares, stocks, bonds and securities of persons who had left the country.

As the record shows, in 1961 claimants were residing in Florida. The Commission finds, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that the subject real property was taken by the Government of Cuba on December 6, 1961 pursuant to the provisions of Law 989. (See Claim of Wallace Tabor and Catherine Tabor, Claim No. CU-0109, 25 FCSC Semiann. Rep. 53 [July-Dec. 1966])

Based on the entire record, the Commission finds that the total value of the claimants' investment in the subject real property was \$500.00. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that each claimant suffered a loss in the amount of \$250.00 within the meaning of Title V of the Act on December 6, 1961.

The Commission has decided that in the certification of losses on claims determined pursuant to Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, interest should be included at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of loss to the date of settlement. (See Claim of Lisle Corporation, Claim No. CU-0644).

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that the amount of the loss sustained by claimants shall be increased by interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from December 6, 1961, the date on which the loss occurred, to the date on which provisions are made for the settlement thereof.

The Commission certifies that GEORGE R. SMITH suffered a loss, as a result of actions of the Government of Cuba, within the scope of Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars ((\$250.00) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from December 6, 1961 to the date of settlement; and

The Commission certifies that HAROLD S. SMITH suffered a loss, as a result of actions of the Government of Cuba, within the scope of Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from December 6, 1961 to the date of settlement.

Dated at Washington, D. C.,  
and entered as the Proposed  
Decision of the Commission

**MAY 29 1968**

*Leonard v. B. Sutton*

Leonard v. B. Sutton, Chairman

*Theodore Jaffe*

Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

The statute does not provide for the payment of claims against the Government of Cuba. Provision is only made for the determination by the Commission of the validity and amounts of such claims. Section 501 of the statute specifically precludes any authorization for appropriations for payment of these claims. The Commission is required to certify its findings to the Secretary of State for possible use in future negotiations with the Government of Cuba.

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, if no objections are filed within 15 days after service or receipt of notice of this Proposed Decision, the decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or receipt of notice, unless the Commission otherwise orders. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. 531.5(e) and (g), as amended, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 (1967).)